IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A waterproof and breathable sole for shoes comprising:

a supporting layer which includes at least one macroportion having an area on the order of at least one square centimeter, and wherein said at least one macroportion is made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a membrane that is made of a material that is impermeable to water and permeable to water vapor and is associated above said supporting layer at least in said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a tread made of plastic material, said tread including at least one macroperforation extending through the tread, wherein said at least one macroperforation is beneath and in communication with said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material, and wherein said at least one macroperforation of said tread exposes said area on the order of at least one square centimeter of said supporting layer to outside of said tread,

said tread being joined hermetically to said membrane and to said supporting layer at least at a perimeter of said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein said supporting layer, in portions that are distinct with respect to said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material, includes a mesh.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein said membrane made of waterproof and vapor-permeable material is laminated together with a fine supporting mesh, which lies thereabove and is made of synthetic material.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein said membrane is coupled by way of spots of glue to said supporting layer.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein said supporting layer is entirely made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material and includes a single macroportion that is covered in an upward region by said membrane, and wherein said tread made of plastic material is connected to said supporting layer and is joined hermetically to said membrane at least at its peripheral region.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 21, wherein said tread has substantially one single large through macroperforation that extends along substantially all of the sole of the foot except for the perimeter, and wherein a plurality of protrusions are positioned at least partially within said macroperforation, and further wherein said plurality of protrusions form, together with the perimeter, a ground contact surface.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein said tread is provided injected directly into a mold onto said supporting layer with at least perimetric penetration through the supporting layer to the membrane to hermetically join the tread and the membrane about a perimeter of the macroportion.

Claims 24-26 Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A shoe with a sole as set forth in claim 17, further comprising an upper that is assembled to an assembly insole and is coupled to said sole at a peripheral region of said insole.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The shoe with sole according to claim 27, wherein coupling between said assembly insole, said upper, and said sole is provided by gluing or high-frequency welding.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The shoe with sole according to claim 27, wherein said assembly insole is coupled in a downward region to a filler layer.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The shoe with sole according to claim 27, further comprising an inner sole made of breathable or diffusely perforated material arranged above said assembly insole.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The shoe with sole according to claim 30, wherein said insole is coupled, in a downward region, to a layer that is diffusely perforated and contoured anatomically.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole that comprises:

a supporting layer which includes at least one macroportion having an area on the order of at least one square centimeter, and wherein said at least one macroportion is made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a membrane, which is made of a material that is impermeable to water and vapor-permeable and is associated above said supporting layer at least in said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a tread, which is made of plastic material, said tread including at least one macroperforation extending through said tread, wherein said at least one macroperforation is beneath and in communication with said at least one macroportion made of mesh, felt or other diffusely perforated material, and wherein said at least one macroperforation of said tread exposes said area on the order of at least one square centimeter of said supporting layer to outside of said tread;

an upper that is assembled on an assembly insole that is coupled to a layer made of a diffusely perforated material, which ~~constitutes~~ provides a means for hermetic ~~high-frequency welding~~ sealing of said membrane to said upper from above, perimetrically with respect to said macroportion, said tread being glued perimetrically to the assembly.

Claims 33-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 32, wherein the supporting layer includes a mesh, and wherein the tread is hermetically joined to said membrane through the mesh about a perimeter of each macroportion.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, further including a layer positioned above the membrane which supports the membrane.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 36, wherein the layer positioned above the membrane is a fine mesh.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, further including a plurality of cross members positioned in said at least one macroperforation and extending beneath said supporting layer.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 38, wherein said supporting layer includes a mesh material.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, further including a plurality of protrusions at least partially positioned inside the at least one macroperforation, and wherein said plurality of protrusions are coupled to said supporting layer.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 17, wherein for each macroportion said tread is hermetically joined to said membrane about a perimeter of said macroportion.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The sole assembly of claim 41, wherein said tread is joined to said membrane through said supporting layer.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The sole assembly of claim 17, further including at least one supporting member positioned inside of said at least one macroperforation, and wherein said supporting member is coupled to said supporting layer.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A sole according to claim 43, wherein said at least one supporting member includes a plurality of protrusions which extend from said supporting layer, and which each have a ground contact surface for contact with the ground.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A sole according to claim 44, further including a layer positioned above said membrane for supporting the membrane.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A sole according to claim 45, wherein said layer positioned above said membrane comprises a fine mesh.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A sole according to claim 43, wherein said at least one supporting member includes a plurality of cross members positioned within said at least one macroperforation and extending beneath said supporting layer.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The sole according to claim 18, further comprising a perimetric layer of glue spread onto said supporting layer so as to penetrate through the mesh of and join monolithically and hermetically the tread and the membrane.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The sole according to claim 18, further comprising a film made of PVC or PU arranged either between the supporting layer and the membrane or between the tread and the supporting layer, with high frequency welding performed so as to melt the film and make it penetrate the mesh, so as to join the membrane and the tread monolithically.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The sole according to claim 18, further comprising a film made of PVC or PU arranged between said supporting layer and said membrane by high-frequency welding and the assembly is then glued to said tread.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A waterproof and breathable sole for shoes comprising:

a supporting layer which includes at least one macroportion having an area on the order of at least one square centimeter, and wherein said at least one macroportion is made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a membrane that is made of a material that is impermeable to water and permeable to water vapor, and wherein the membrane is located above said supporting layer at least in said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material;

a tread, said tread including at least one macroperforation extending through the tread, wherein said at least one macroperforation is beneath and in communication with said at least one macroportion made of net, felt or other diffusely perforated material, and wherein said at least one macroperforation of said tread exposes said area on the order of at least one square centimeter of said supporting layer to outside of said tread;

at least one support member positioned inside of the at least one macroperforation, wherein said at least one support member is coupled to said supporting layer and;

wherein the tread is hermetically sealed to said membrane about a periphery of said at least one macroportion.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 51, wherein said at least one support member includes a plurality of protrusions connected to said at least one macroportion of said supporting layer.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 52, wherein said plurality of protrusions and a perimeter of said tread provide ground contact surfaces which contact the ground in use.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A shoe according to claim 53, wherein for each macroportion the tread is hermetically coupled to both said membrane and said supporting layer about a perimeter of said macroportion.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 51, wherein said at least one support member includes a plurality of cross-members coupled to and extending across said supporting layer.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): A shoe according to claim 55, wherein for each macroportion the tread is hermetically coupled to both said membrane and said supporting layer about a perimeter of said macroportion.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 55, wherein a perimeter of said tread provides a ground contact surface which contacts the ground when in use, and wherein the plurality of cross-members are recessed from said ground contact surface.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 51, further including a layer positioned above the membrane for supporting the membrane.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): A shoe according to claim 58, wherein for each macroportion the tread is hermetically coupled to both said membrane and said supporting layer about a perimeter of said macroportion.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 51, wherein the supporting layer includes a mesh, and wherein for each macroportion the tread is hermetically coupled to said membrane through the mesh about a perimeter of said macroportion.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A shoe according to claim 60, wherein the tread is injected onto the supporting layer so as to penetrate perimetric portions of the supporting layer and hermetically join the tread to the membrane about each macroportion.

Claim 62 (Withdrawn): A shoe according to claim 60, wherein the tread is coupled to the membrane by an adhesive that penetrates perimetric portions of the supporting layer to hermetically join the tread to the membrane about each macroportion.

Claim 63 (Withdrawn): A shoe according to claim 60, wherein a welded film extends through perimetric portions of the supporting layer to hermetically join the tread and the membrane about each macroportion.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 23, wherein the tread penetrates through meshes of the supporting layer.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 23, wherein the supporting layer includes a net at border portions through which said tread penetrates.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 23, wherein the supporting layer is perimetrically reduced in thickness to allow the tread to hermetically join the membrane.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 23, wherein the supporting layer is perimetrically perforated to allow the tread to hermetically join the membrane.

Claim 68 (New): A sole according to claim 17, wherein the supporting layer includes a single macroportion and the tread includes a plurality of macroperforations, and wherein said tread is heremetically sealed to said supporting layer and to said membrane about a periphery of said macroportion.

Claim 69 (New): A sole according to claim 17, wherein the supporting layer includes a plurality of macroportions and the tread includes a plurality of macroperforations, and wherein the tread is hermetically sealed to said supporting layer and said membrane about a periphery of each macroportion.

Claim 70 (New): A sole according to claim 17, further including a protective layer positioned above the supporting layer.

Claim 71 (New): A shoe according to claim 51, further including a protective layer positioned above the supporting layer.